

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2015

Melissa Abdullah  
Grant Officer  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration  
Office of Grants Management  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N4716  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Reference # FOA-ETA-15-03

Dear Ms. Abdullah:

We are pleased to write in support of Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc.'s (CCWI) grant application to establish a Pre-Release Employment Project (PREP). CCWI has applied for funding under the Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release Specialized American Job Centers grant announcement, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

CCWI is one of four Local Workforce Investment Boards in the State of Maine and is responsible for administering the Workforce Investment Act in Cumberland, York, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, and Sagadahoc Counties. Since 2000, CCWI has trained more than 30,000 workers to help them remain competitive in their current industries, or enable them to switch occupations. CCWI's training programs promote economic advancement by equipping workers with the skills that are in high demand by employers.

If funding is awarded, CCWI's PREP program would establish an American Job Corps Center at the Cumberland County Jail, the largest jail in the State of Maine. Through PREP, CCWI and its partners would assist inmates preparing to reenter the workforce by providing pre-release employment and career services. The program would also connect recently released inmates with workforce development services and assist these individuals in obtaining gainful employment.

CCWI has an impressive record of bringing business, community organizations, and workers together to create a skilled workforce and allow individuals to reach their full potential. We hope that the application submitted by CCWI is given full and careful consideration, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Sean McGilley (Senator Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (Senator King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator